Reservation Policy for Ex-servicemen in Government and PSUs

*147. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation policy for ex-servicemen for jobs in all Government and Public Sector Undertakings is being implemented strictly; and

(b) whether Government are considering the formation of a "National Ex-Servicemen's Commission" to monitor the implementation of Government policies for ex-servicemen in the Central as well as State Government Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Reservation policy for providing jobs to ex-servicemen in Government and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is being implemented by the Ministries/Departments/PSUs as per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am very surprised at the answer because the Ministry of Defence generally gives good, factually correct answers. This answer is factually, totally incorrect. So, my first supplementary is this. Why has the Ministry of Defence given a factually incorrect statement?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, this is the factually correct answer.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would then request the hon. Minister, at his own convenience, to please give me a list of ex-servicemen employed in all the Central Government undertakings as well as in the Ministries, It is nowhere near the proportion laid down, and I think, the Ministry may well be aware of it. It is something for which we have been fighting for years, it is not coming through, and then we get an answer like this. So, I would request, through you, Sir, to the hon. Minister if he could kindly provide me details of ex-servicemen who have been employed there.

Sir, my second supplementary is about the National ex-servicemen's Commission. The fact of the matter is, whatever policies the Ministry of Defence makes about rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, these are implemented by the State Governments. Unfortunately, the State Governments, with a few, I will say, honourable exceptions, just ignore this policy and do not implement it. So, I would request the Government and the Ministry of Defence, through you, Sir, to kindly seriously consider formation of a National Commission for ex-servicemen on the lines of the National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Minorities because the ex-servicemen are a class of people who are ignored and mistreated to the same extent as the other components of the Indian society for whom national commissions have been set up.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the idea of National Commission has been discussed more than once and, for a variety of very valid reasons, that idea has not been accepted. Sir, there are a number of openings for the ex-servicemen; but it is impossible to accommodate, in jobs, all the ex-servicemen as they keep on coming out of the services whether in the public sector undertakings or in any Government enterprise, and, for that matter, even in the private sector. Every year, 60,000 men come out of the Army, and finding jobs for 60,000 ex-servicemen is quite a job. We have, as on date, 5.5 lakh ex-servicemen who are listed in the Zilla Sainik Boards who are in need of jobs. But efforts are constantly made. There is an agency within the Army which looks after the ex-servicemen's problems, including finding placements for them, giving training for them, and whatever else that needs to be done to see that they are rehabilitated.

Now the hon. Member has suggested that I should get the list of the people who are employed in the various Government establishments, and so on. It will be an impossible job for anyone, including the Government, to find out all the people where they are, where they are employed, in which bank they are, in which establishment they are, etc.; that will not be possible, as far as the Government is concerned. But I can assure the hon. Member that all efforts-when I say all efforts, I mean every effort that one can make—will be taken to see that the conditions of the ex-servicemen are taken care of.